THE PACIFIC

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"Not as I Will."

Blindfolded and alone I stand
With unknown thresholds on each hand;
The darkness deepens as I grope,
Afraid to fear, afraid to hope;
Yet this one thing I learn to know
Each day more surely as I go,
That doors are opened, ways are made,
Burdens are lifted or are laid,
By some great law unseen and still,
Unfathomed purpose to fulfill,
"Not as I will."

Blindfolded and alone I wait;
Loss seems too bitter, gain too late;
Too heavy burdens in the load
And too few helpers on the road;
And joy is weak, and grief is strong,
And years and days so long, so long;
Yet this one thing I learn to know
Each day more surely as I go,
That I am glad the good and ill
By changeless laws are ordered still,
"Not as I will."

"Not as I will:" the sound grows sweet
Each time my lips the words repeat.
"Not as I will:" the darkness feels
More safe than light, when this thought steals
Like whispered voice to calm and bless
All unrest and all loneliness.
"Not as I will," because the One
Who loved us first and best has gone
Before us on the road, and still
For us must all His love fulfill,
"Not as I will."

—Helen Hunt Jackson.

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THE PACIFIC COAST CONGRESS.

The Fourth Pacific Coast Congregational Congress, which closed its sessions on Wednesday of this week in Los Angeles, is pronounced by persons who have attended all of these congresses the best yet held. Throughout, it was an occasion of fine fellowship and splendid inspiration. Not many who were in attendance had the privilege of attending the first one, which was held in Portland in 1888, but not a few were present at the one held in San Francisco six years ago and at the one in Seattle three years ago. At the latter the Rev. Dr. Campbell Morgan was the commanding figure and chief attraction, and interest centered around him to such an extent as to detract somewhat from other parts of the program.

This year there was no such international celebrity, but Prof. E. I. Bosworth of Oberlin Theological Seminary, in a series of very thoughtful and highly interesting addresses, given each morning, gave such spiritual direction and tone to the congress as to make it one of much value and far-reaching influence for good.

At all of the sessions, morning, afternoon and evening, during the seven days of the congress, the attendance was uniformly large, and as a whole this congress in Los Angeles had the opportunity of projecting itself more fully into the life of our churches than any other yet held.

Men and women from all over the coast had a glimpse during those days of the different divisions of the Congregational army which is battling for the upbuilding of the kingdom of Christ on these Pacific shores, and as they saw and heard they thanked God and took courage.

They have gone back now, realizing more fully than ever before that,

> "Out of the shadow of night
> The world rolls into light;
> It is daybreak everywhere,"

and so encouraged and inspired as to be able to impart to others considerable of the good to be derived from such assemblages.

We of central and northern California went there bound somewhat by the chain of our recent great calamity; but brethren met us far out on the Appian way and as we dwelt together during those seven memorable days we were brought to feel as the Apostle Paul felt when he was a prisoner in Rome that the things which had happened unto us had fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel. And to some of us there came as well worth remembering in all the experiences of life these words of Browning:

> "If I stoop
> Into a dark tremendous sea of cloud
> It is but for a time; I press God's lamp
> Close to my breast, its splendor soon or late
> Will pierce the gloom: I shall emerge at last."

We have stated that the addresses by Prof. Bosworth each morning gave direction and tone to the whole congress. His first address was on "Jesus' Teaching About God the Father." It was said in that connection that it was the genius of Jesus' life to share everything with everybody; his peace, his future, his works, his own experience with the Father. That experience was unique; He alone had had it, and he alone could share it. Through him there came the knowledge that God is close at hand, providing for and seeking after His children. Nothing can hurt the trustful child of the Heavenly Father, was the message of Jesus to the world. It is this that takes the worry, the irritability, the jealousy out of life it is this that enables us to say with the poet,

> "And so beside the silent sea
> I wait the muffled oar;
> No harm from him can come to me
> On ocean or on shore."

It was in this lecture that Prof. Bosworth set forth in most impressive manner the law that he who will not join the Heavenly Father in his search for his lost children and in the work for the development and enrichment of their lives cannot have fellowship with that Father. Whenever there comes into any life the morning of a new eternity, there springs up also a desire to share with others for their blessedness.

Perhaps the address by Prof. Bosworth which made the deepest impression was the one on "The Meaning of Life," given at the session which was held at Long Beach Monday forenoon. In that it was said that God is a Father training His children for a great inheritance; that he has great power to bequeath to his children and is always kindling in their hearts some expectation of power. Human life he defined as a situation devised by the ingenuity of God in which to train sons for the inheritance of power by teaching them how to use power in a friendly fashion. The plain daily life was said to be that situation, and as fast as men have learned to use power with some friendliness has God put power into their hands. Until man has learned to use properly the lower forms of power God cannot give and entrust to him the higher. Money power was listed among the lower and temporary forms, and by it men are continually being tested. It was shown that there are vast trusts for man in the ages yet to dawn, and that all these would come to him as rapidly as he showed preparation for their proper and friendly use. All who neglect and refuse to use power aright were shown to be acting against the long trend in the evolution of life. As to what would finally become of all such, Prof. Bosworth said that he was an agnostic, meaning, of course, that he did not know and would not dogmatize.

Among the things mentioned as making a strong appeal for the friendly use of power were human suffering and the family.

In another lecture Prof. Bosworth showed that the ideal life is the life of invincible good will, and that Christ will never rest until He has on the earth a civilization of the "blessed" men, which can come about only through the purifying power of the personal presence and touch of Christ.

The addresses by Washington Gladden and the Rev. Wil-

liam Rader on "The Churches and the Labor Problem," were along the line of this spirit of true Christian service which was the keynote set by those of Prof. Bosworth. Mr. Rader said among other things:

"The grace of the church must shatter the graft of the world

"If we can assume democracy within and practice aristocracy without, what does it profit?

"The cup of coffee, the cheap bed, the institutional organization may be expedient, but the church will never solve the labor problem with doughnuts.

"To solve a problem the questions involved therein must be answered. Before the laboring classes can be brought into the church things must be cleared up. There must be a better understanding."

In a plea for identification, for touch, for sympathetic relations, Mr. Rader said: "Identification has for its center at times the cross of blood."

It was in this connection that Dr. Gladden gave his lecture on "Where Are We in Industry?" And therein he showed that there is something wrong in our industrial system and that there must come in some measure of social control and direction; that industry must come up everywhere on the plane of moral law and right take the place of force.

An address by the Rev. C. R. Brown on "The Christian Expectation" sounded a similar note. Taking the words of Christ, "Greater works than these shall ye do," he showed that though we looked out on the world and saw considerable of chaos, yet better things are coming all the time, and we may with good reason look forward to a society that shall realize the highest hopes of God. More and more is the kingdom coming. God is causing the water of life to flow through secular channels. And in New York, for example Jacob Riis had done a greater work than if he had walked on the waters from bank to bank across the Hudson. Ever is human nature responding to the ideal, and ever is being attained a finer type of character which is to have its consummation in the realization of all that is contained in "Be ye perfect even as your Father in heaven is perfect."

Different addresses by the Rev. Dr. Arthur H. Smith, the noted missionary, emphasized also the demand for the altruistic spirit; and very plainly was it shown that it was incumbent on us to give to China the best that we have, and so stamp that Oriental civilization with the spirit of Christ that the mighty influence which it is soon to exert in world affairs will be most for the good of man and the glory of God.

The sessions of the congress were admirably arranged. The trips to cities and towns in the vicinity of Los Angeles and the holding of meetings there gave added enjoyment and interest.

Saturday was given to a trip to Claremont, where Pomona College is located, and to Redlands and Riverside. All delegates from a distance had this trip without charge. At Claremont the students were assembled in the college chapel, and a talk on "The Christian Ministry," was given by Prof. Bosworth, which no doubt exalted this calling in the minds of all who heard. Dr. Gladden spoke also and impressed the truth that this is an age of great opportunity for all who have the spirit of service.

The students at Pomona are a fine looking and fine acting lot of young men and young women; and the college atmosphere is such as to lead a visitor to believe that Claremont is an excellent place for parents to send the boys and girls. A father and mother who reside at another place in Southern California, and who know much about conditions there, said to the present writer, that they were looking forward with pleasure to the time when their son could be under the splendid influence of the college.

Passing on from Claremont, a drive through the beauties of Redlands and Riverside, and dinner in the fine new Glenwood hotel at the latter place, completed the Saturday of the congress, and a day of delightful fellowship.

Constant attendance at the sessions of the congress by the editor of The Pacific left no time for the writing of a report in full, and so what we shall have to say concerning it must be continued in another issue of the paper, which will follow this number very closely, inasmuch as this one is late in its publication.

There was not a paper, nor an address, that was not able and interesting, and well worth much more space than The Pacific can give to them in its abbreviated form. Strong men of the denomination were in attendance from all parts of the coast and gave themselves without stint to make the congress a power for good. We hope to be able to give next week a few thoughts from all of the papers and addresses so that the uplift which came to all who were in attendance may go out somewhat in wider reach.

NOTES.

Three years hence the Pacific Coast Congress will be held in Portland.

The Rev. Dr. Arthur H. Smith will speak in the First Congregational Church of Berkeley on Friday evening.

Mrs. J. H. O'Brien, of 1416 Arch street, Berkeley, the secretary of literature for the Woman's Home Missionary Union of Northern California, will go East next month to be absent for three months. It has not been possible to secure anyone to attend to this department of the work during her absence. Accordingly no literature will be sent out until she returns.

Plans have been pretty definitely formulated for the opening up as soon as possible of services by the First Congregational Church of San Francisco at its old location on the corner of Post and Mason streets. It will cost about $8,000 to arrange a place in the ruins where services can be held until such time as it can be wisely determined whether the permanent house of worship ought to be constructed there or elsewhere. It will not be possible to determine this for a year or two.

The church at Highland, in Southern California, has made a contribution of $175 to the cause of Home Missions in Northern California to help in this time of distress. The Rev. H. H. Wikoff has had $100 placed in his hands by the same church to use as he may think best in the work of restoring the church buildings damaged or destroyed. The sum of $40 was given to The Pacific to send the paper into twenty homes in Highland to which it has not been having entrance.

A movement was inaugurated at the Pacific Coast Congress in Los Angeles last week to raise $10,000 to aid in putting The Pacific where it can do the work which it is called to do on our coast. We shall have more concerning this next week. Without exception the feeling at the congress was that the churches of the coast could not get along without The Pacific, and an effort will be made in all the churches to enlarge the subscription list and secure contributions to this fund. Com-

mittees were appointed from different parts of the coast to take this matter in hand. We shall give the names of the persons constituting the committees next week, and shall also publish the recommendation of the committee appointed by the congress to consider the interests of the paper and report thereon. The different sums already sent by friends of the paper to the editor and manager will be turned over to this fund and whatever may be received hereafter will be so applied. Several hundred dollars were subscribed toward this fund during the sessions of the congress. While in attendance at the congress the Rev. Dr. George C. Adams received a contribution from the East to be used as seemed best to him, and $100 of it was put at once into our possession. The Pacific has hopes of better and brighter days

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Congratulations to Plymouth Church, Seattle, on the entrance upon the pastorate of that church of the Rev. Dr. Francis J. Van Horn, who resigned recently the pastorate of the First Church of Worcester, Massachusetts, to take up this important work in the rapidly enlarging city of Seattle. The present writer had the privilege of hearing Dr. Van Horn in the pulpit of the First Methodist Church of Los Angeles last Sunday. The sermon was on the theme, "The Church Universal," and was an inspiring one. It is evident that the congregation of Plymouth Church is to have a pulpit ministration that will be both interesting and edifying. Picturing in way of introduction the illimitable universe, the preacher said that for weal or woe we all are a part of that unending life which gives meaning to the universe. Not only the world but the universe is for the enlargement, the enrichment of life, and to the end that the righteous government of God may be everywhere established. Down through every age of the world the experience has been that sin doesn't pay; that only righteousness pays. It is the business of the church to bear witness to this, and also to the truth that there is in touch with all mankind one who can give victory over sin. Such witness is for the church not only in this world, but in other worlds. Our life and work are unending Death leads into wider places of service . For his work in other worlds God is waiting for men who have been tried and tested in this world, and in the life and worlds beyond wonderful fields of service are awaiting those who under his guiding hand here are fitted for it. In way of illustration reference was made to General Grant's remark in one of the most trying periods of our civil war, that he intended "to fight it out on this line if it took all summer," and most impressively was it shown that it is worth while to struggle and strive for the attainment of the higher character.

CHURCH NEWS.

Green Valley.—The church at this place was damaged by the earthquake, and it will require about $300 for repairs The Rev. William Rogers sustained a fracture of the leg

San Diego.—On Sunday, May 6th, there were six additions to the church membership, two on confession of faith. The church decided at once on hearing of the destruction of our Northern California churches to make an effort to raise $1,000 for their aid, and $770 was pledged in a short time.

Corona.—At the communion, May 6, five new members were received, two on confession of faith and three by letter At the midweek service, May 9, the time was given to reports of the condition and needs of the stricken Congregational churches in the north, as gathered from The Pacific of May 3, and from the article by Rev. E. L. Walz in The Congregationalist of May 5. . . . Rev. J. Spencer Jewell, who was pastor of the Corona church for seven years immediately preceding the present pastorate, and who has recently been serving a Presbyterian church in Otego, N. Y., has just returned to California on account of broken health, and has settled in Corona.

Highland.—Communion Sunday, May 6, five united with the church, two on confession. May 20th was observed as Children's Day. Nine united with the church on confession all of them from the Sabbath School. This makes 16 additions since January 1. Eleven on confession.

Lodi.—At the May communion 7 united with the church by letter. On Saturday, May 19, the Sunday Schools of northern San Joaquin county held their annual picnic near Lockford a large and delightful gathering. On Sunday, May 20, a union revival meeting was begun under the leadership of Rev. Ray Palmer, evangelist.

Los Angeles, First.—The number uniting with the church on Easter should have been given as 44, instead of 24. On May 6th the First church observed the fortieth anniversary of the ordination of Rev. Warren F. Day, D.D., Pastor Emeritus, with special music, flowers and a Chautauqua salute as he entered the pulpit. He preached an anniversary sermon on "These Forty Years."

Oakland, Fourth.—An event which has long been anticipated has come to pass. On Sunday, the 20th inst., the new Sunday School addition to this church was formally dedicated, the exercises being participated in by the pastor, Rev. F. H. Maar, Mr. Joseph Leiter, superintendent of Sunday School; Mr. E. T. Leiter, chairman of the Board of Trustees and the choir. The new room is large and airy, well lighted and ventilated. Plenty of sunshine is admitted by pretty windows, making it cheerful and warm and one of the most attractive Sunday School rooms to be found. It has a seating capacity of about 250 and is sure to be well filled every Sabbath as the Sunday School has far outgrown its old quarters and is still increasing. An important part of the new addition is the well equipped kitchen for the use of the Ladies' Association.

WOMAN'S BOARD OF MISSIONS.

The quarterly meeting will be held in Fruitvale Wednesday, June 6th. The sessions will begin at 11 a. m. and 1:30 p. m. Each one is asked to bring her own lunch and coffee will be served at the church for which we will pay five cents This basket picnic is planned that the women of the church may attend the meeting instead of spending the morning in preparing a lunch for us. Let us all make an effort to attend this meeting.

LAURA N. RICHARDS,
Pres. W. B. M. P.

WHAT OF THE HARVEST

"God bends from out the deep and says,
'I gave thee of my seed to sow.
Bringest thou me my hundred fold?'
Can I look up with face aglow,
And answer, 'Father, here is gold?'"

A TENDERER WAY

"God metes not out our life in one long length,
But in a tenderer and wiser way.
Have faith, and take thy bread, thy cross, thy strength,
Day by day."